

Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Catholic Theatre Conference has had a busy year and its members have been most active in every region of the country. By now most of the dramatic clubs have wound up their year's activities, and before students go on vacation and directors and teachers go on to summer school, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to every member of the organization for the very fine spirit of cooperation which has been extended to me, the members of the Board and especially the secretary in the home office.

This past year has seen the inauguration of more new regions and the steady, though not great, increase in membership. Activities in all regions are on the increase. More high school festivals are being held in regions and sub-regions with very gratifying results. The type of work, the choice of plays, and everything concerned with the art of the theatre has been improved. In short, members everywhere are putting their best foot forward, and it's a foot to be proud of.

One of the very noticeable improvements is the increase of parish clubs. During the war these organizations practically folded up. But they are again being revived and with greater interest than ever before. It is most satisfying to see that the calibre of their work is taking on where the little community theatres left off.

Another very stimulating push forward can be seen in the efforts of Conference members to plug the significant work of the organization and to raise funds for the carrying out of our purpose, the promulgation of Catholic Action through Catholic Theatre. The initiation of benefit performances for the well being of the Conference in general has been wonder-

fully undertaken and has brought forth unimagined results. Now at long last we have found a means of building up a fund which will enable the Conference to become not only self-sustaining but also capable of helping out members in a financial way..

Since the benefit performances held throughout the country have benefitted the Conference so satisfactorily, it is hoped that this same scheme can be developed during the coming year. With the members pledging this same support in advance of the coming season, it is to be hoped that the knowledge of the Conference can be spread farther and be made known more widely throughout the country. So while benefit performances help not only the Conference generally, they also give a certain prestige to the local group who sponsors the benefit.

It is my sincere wish that all the members of the Conference may have a good holiday and return to their new season with greater courage and zest for promoting the work of Catholic Action through Catholic Drama.

Rev. Karl G. Schroeder

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The semi-annual meeting of the Executive Board will be held on Friday, June 18 at Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois. An invitation was extended to the Board by Sister Mary Peter, O.P., President of the College, and Sister Mary Gregory, O.P., of the Speech and Drama Department. The Board has invited the Regional Chairmen to be in attendance, too.

Enclosed with this issue of the Calendar is a communication from our new Editor, Rev. James Donohue. Make it a point to read it carefully and respond before deadline time, if at all possible. This will be of great assistance to Father Donohue in speeding up the publication date of our annual magazine.

SUMMER ADDRESS

If your address for the summer will be different from the one used during the remainder of the season will you please send it to the Service Bureau so the Mid-summer edition of the Calendar may be sent directly to you?

SUMMER VISITORS

Sister M. Avila, I.H.M. of Marygrove College, Detroit will be studying at Columbia University this summer while Sister M. Leola, B.V.M. of Clarke College, Dubuque will be a student at Fordham. Sister M. Gregory, O.P., Rosary College, River Forest, will be teaching at Catholic University. Among the students there will be Sister Alicette of Matignon High School, Cambridge, Mass., and New England Regional Chairman along with Sister M. Immaculate of St. Joseph Academy, Wheeling, West Virginia, who is Chairman of the Southern Region.

No doubt there are many others who will be attending these summer schools. Won't you please let your secretary know so she may visit with you? It will be a splendid opportunity to become acquainted (or renew acquaintance) and will make it much more pleasant to know the people with whom one is corresponding all year 'round.

Conference members visiting New York are cordially invited to visit your Service Bureau and office.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

Summer is the time when most directors settle down to reading and making selections for the next season. Perhaps some of the following may prove to be just what you're looking for.....

WISDOM FOR WELFARE - a dramatic poem by Sister M. Dolorita, S.N.D. with an introductory preface by Rev. Fulton J. Sheen.
LADY OF FATIMA by Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P. 2 acts - mixed cast. Script contains suggestions for simplified setting as well as notes on costumes and lighting and 3 photographs of sets.

Interest in Father Nagle's play is increasing day by day throughout the country. Enclosed with this issue is a brochure on the play and an order card for your convenience. The red CTC in the corner will signify to the publisher that the order comes from a Conference member.

There is a special royalty reduction for Conference members - enough to pay your dues for 1948-49 or to add to your dues and make you a Sustaining Member this year!

And remember - our special arrangement with the publisher, the Declan X. McMullen Company, provides that the Conference will receive 10% of all the royalties. So...the more productions the more income for our national treasury!

LIBRARY ADDITIONS (Cont'd.)

EMBASSY SUCCESSES - Vol. 2 containing:

No Room at the Inn - Joan Temple

Skipper Next to God - Jan de Hartog

National Velvet - Enid Bagnold

(The latter is a charming play recommended by Father Schroeder for high school production.)

COMMAND DECISION - the all male show still running on Broadway, starring Paul Kelly. Not available for production.

STAGE SCENERY AND LIGHTING by Selden and Sellman. A practical and helpful book for all directors.

THE HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER - folk comedy in 3 acts, dramatized by Lee Norvelle from the novel by Edw. Eggleston.

PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN - Robert Brown-ing's - arranged as choral drama by Agnes Curren Hamm.

LAND O' COTTON - complete minstrel show.

JACK AND THE GIANT KILLER - Juvenile Operetta.

TOM SAWYER - operetta in 3 acts.

A DREAM OF FAIRYLAND - Juvenile cantata

THE FAIRY SHOEMAKER - Operetta in 2 acts.

THE BELL IN THE FOREST - Operetta for boys.

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T. S. Eliot's MURDER IN A CATHEDRAL will be filmed in London. Work on the film is scheduled for August or September with about two-thirds of the material being shot in the crypt and precincts of Canterbury Cathedral.

BROADWAY COMMENTS
by Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

BALLET BALLADS - Delightful combination of song and dance, written by John La Touche, music by Jerome Moross, which includes story of Susannah and the Elders, as told at a revival meeting, the adventures of Davy Crockett and the marijuana dreams of Willy, the Weeper. Full of imagination and charm and well danced.

***CUP OF TREMBLING** - Elizabeth Bergner did all she could in a drama about a dipsomaniac cured by A. A. plus psycho-analysis. Arlene Francis did a fine bit but novelist tried to dramatize his own story with unsound result.

***HABIMAH PRODUCTIONS: Dybbuk** - Production stems from Moscow and stresses the macabre humor rather than the spiritual side of the story. Setting starkly modernistic. The actors have great vitality and fine voices.

***HOLD IT!** - Elaborate production of a college story of a student who wins a Beauty Contest in the blonde wig worn in the Varsity Show. Michael Kidd's Hollywood ballet not too funny. Harmless adolescent musical.

INSIDE U.S.A. - With Beatrice Lillie and Jack Haley as stars with lyrics and music by Dietz and Schwartz, design by Lemuel Ayers, choreography by Tamaris and sketches by Auerbach, Horwitt and Moss Hart, it would be hard not to have a successful revue. Add Valerie Bettis as a dancer and subtract Hart.

JOY TO THE WORLD - Brash, noisy farce about the Vice-President in charge of production in a Hollywood studio, played by Alfred Drake, who learns liberalism and love from the same young lady, Marsha Hunt. All in bad taste.

ME AND MOLLY - Very pleasant comedy of home life in the Bronx, written and played by Gertrude Berg, who created the Goldberg family for the radio. It has human values and plenty of humor.

RESPECTFUL PROSTITUTE - Jean-Paul Sartre's idea of lynch law in the USA has also such intimate details of his heroine's life that I left the theatre.

***SALLY** - Bambi Linn took Marilyn Miller's famous role but has more ballet technique than allure. Willy Howard did better by Leon Erroll's waiter in the traditional manner. Stewart Chaney's sets charming - so was Kern's music.

THE ALCHEMIST - Already closed but an excellent and romping revival by Jose and George Coulouris at popular prices at the
(cont'd. - next column)

JUNE PRODUCTIONS

Now that the season is over for almost all schools and the summer session has not begun, the Cross County Circuit shows only a few plays scheduled for production:

Dayton, Ohio - Blackfriars' Guild -

June 4 and 5 - **THE GREAT BIG DOORSTEP.**

Montreal, Quebec - St. Genesius Players,

June 8 and 9 - **SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE.**

Tulsa, Okla. - Monte Cassino - **DUEL OF**

TWO WORLDS, a pageant with a cast of 300, representing all Catholic Schools in eastern Okla. - June 2 - presented in large amphitheatre, directed by Sister M. Immaculate, O.S.B.

WEST-CENTRAL REGION

The officers of West-Central Region plan a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri in early June to prepare for next year's regional meeting. Rev. R. A. Johnston, S.J., Dept. of Speech, University of St. Louis is the Regional Chairman.

C.B.A. CONVENTION

The Catholic Broadcasters' Association will hold its Charter Convention at St. John's Seminary, Brighton, Mass., on July 2, 3 and 4. Accommodations are available at the Seminary and at Our Lady's Guild House, Boston as well as the Statler and other Boston hotels.

The fee for the three day meeting is \$10.00, which covers a room at either the Seminary or Guild House with all meals at the Seminary. Rev. Francis X. Sallaway, P.P., Boston Archdiocesan Director of Radio Activities, issued the invitation on behalf of their Executive Committee. Reservations may be addressed to him c/o Sacred Heart Rectory, 571 Boston St., West Lynn, Mass.

BROADWAY COMMENTS (Cont'd.)

City Center.

THE PLAY'S THE THING - Polished revival of Molnar's highly sophisticated comedy of a week end on the Riviera and how a famous playwright straightened out an uncomfortable snarl in the one act play he writes over-night. Splendidly played by Louis Calhern assisted by Francis Compton, Arthur Margetson, Ernest Cossart and Faye Emerson. Very funny.

* Closed

SUMMER SCHOOLS

The following colleges and universities have furnished the Service Bureau with news of their summer courses theatre and radio:

BOSTON COLLEGE - School of Expression Arts - June 28 to August 8. Listed among the instructors are Conference members: Rev. John L. Bonn, S.J., Miriam Davenport Gow and Charles S. Costello. Productions scheduled are: Grumpy, Murder in a Nunnery, Padre Carillo, Murder in the Old Red Barn and The Devil to Pay.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY - Six weeks Summer Session with a summer series of three plays. Names and dates of definite productions to be announced later.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY - Department of Communication Arts, headed by Rev. R. F. Grady, S.J., offers a summer session in Publication, Radio and Theatre July 6 to August 14. The Summer Seminar of Theatre Practice is dedicated to the Theatre of Imagination. Miss Blanche Yurka, Mr. Lincoln Kirstein and Mr. Lee Simonson are the special instructors for the summer. The staff includes Albert McCleery, Director of the University Theatre, Edgar Kloten, Rose Bogdanoff, William Riva and Max Sisk. Productions will be staged in the Penthouse Theatre, the main University Theatre and the Little Theatre.

The Radio Division will present a Summer Institute of Radio with Staff instructors William A. Coleman and Judson LaHaye together with representatives from professional radio, television and advertising. Opportunity is offered to obtain practical experience in all phases of broadcasting through Fordham's FM station, WFUV, which operates a daily seven hour schedule of programs. The station will celebrate its first anniversary on July 1st.

IMMACULATE HEART COLLEGE, Los Angeles, will conduct a summer session directed by Conference Vice-President, Joseph F. Rice. A series of productions is planned. The Mid-summer Calendar will carry detailed information as to exact plays and dates of production.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE CONFERENCE

The Children's Theatre Division of the American Educational Theatre Association will hold its Third Annual Conference June 28 through July 2 at the University of Denver.

The University School of the Theatre offers a five week intensive Children's Theatre Workshop June 21 - July 3 under the direction of Kathryn Kayser assisted by a staff of specialists.

CANADIAN REGION

The Cathespian Guild of Montreal presented its Ninth Annual Catholic Drama Festival May 12, 13 and 14 with Rev. Peter Swan, C.S.B., Ph.D. as the Adjudicator. Five plays were produced including The Finger of God, From Five to Five-Thirty, White Iris, Overtones and The Little Stone House.

St. Genesius Players Guild, a Conference member, offered as a special prize a membership in the Conference, which was won by St. Gabriel Guild Players.

Miss Margaret Tansey, Secretary of The Cathespian Guild, was a recent visitor at the office of the Service Bureau.

Rev. M. D. Dubee, chairman of the Canadian Region, is listed among the lecturers of Fordham University course in Religious Broadcasting.

ADDED NOTES

Father Schroeder's reference to benefit performances in his President's Message on Page 1 will make you want to reread the accounts of benefits reported in previous Calendars. The combined April-May issue carried stories on five benefits. Earlier issues carried still others. The Mid-Summer Calendar will contain a complete listing and totaling of all benefit performances.

Sister M. Honora, O.P., of St. Catherine's High School, Racine, Wisconsin will also be among those furthering studies at Catholic University this summer.

Now is a good time to pay your 1948-49 dues - before you forget!

